

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are the claims currently pending in the Application.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 are amended to clarify features recited thereby.

Formal Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the priority document.

Further, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging review and consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 18, 2001.

Rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 are amended, and are now believed to be allowable. Therefore, this rejection should now be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-8 over the Futagami Reference


Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Futagami et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,754,665. Further, claims 4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Futagami and Hall, U.S. Patent No. 6,643,686. These rejections are traversed.

Futagami, U. S. Patent 6,754,5665, has a U.S. filing date of June 13th, 2000. The present invention was disclosed prior to June 13, 2002 as evidenced by the Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 together with Exhibits filed herewith.

Therefore, Futagami should now be removed as a reference cited against the present Application. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons set forth in the foregoing discussion, Applicant believes that the Application is now allowable, and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and allow the Application. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or regarding the Application generally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures: Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 with Exhibits
Petition for two-month EOT with fee.